



Arlene Dodge
Executive Director
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
16 Spadina Road
Toronto, ON M6B 1E1

March 18, 2025

Councillor Dianne Saxe
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Dianne Saxe,

As a neighbouring Indigenous organization at 16 Spadina Road, we fully endorse the Indigenous Seniors Helping Seniors (ISHS) in their request for a higher security fence and locked gates at the Indigenous Botanical Garden (10 Madison Avenue) and Wigwamen Terrace (14 Spadina Road) to enhance safety for senior tenants and the broader community.

Ongoing safety concerns at the Indigenous Botanical Garden and Wigwamen Terrace have escalated, with a significant rise in unauthorized access, unsafe substance use, and other activities that threaten the well-being of Indigenous members and visitors. These issues have created an environment where seniors and others feel unsafe in a space intended for cultural connection and shared gatherings.

While we support long-term solutions rooted in harm reduction and housing security, immediate action is needed. Installing a taller fence and ensuring gates are locked overnight would provide a necessary measure of protection while maintaining the garden as a welcoming space during appropriate hours.

We urge your office to prioritize this request and collaborate with ISHS to implement these critical security measures. Ensuring the safety and well-being of those who rely on this space must remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Arlene Dodge
Executive Director
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto